

**OGILVY
RENAULT**

Suite 1100, P.O. Box 11
Merrill Lynch Canada Tower
200 King Street West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5H 3T4
☎ (416) 340-6000 - Fax: (416) 977-5239

Total number of pages (including cover sheet). **14**

Date: **April 8, 2004**

From: **Joan M. Van Zant**

Our reference: **1770-206US**

Your reference **Art Unit 1635**

Subject: **Response to Office Communication**

FAX

TO: Name: **Examiner Janet L. Epps-Ford, PhD**
Firm: **United States Patent and Trademark Office**
Fax: **(703) 872-9306**

MESSAGE

US Patent Application No. 09/719,870

Applicant: Masad J. Damha et al.

Title: Antisense Oligonucleotide Constructs Based on β -Arabinofuranose and its Analogues

Please find enclosed a response to the Office Action dated March 8, 2004.

DUE DATE: APRIL 8, 2004

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Patent

Docket No. 1770-206US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

APPLICANT(S): Masad J. Damha et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/719,870
FILING DATE: April 12, 2001
FOR: ANTISENSE OLIGONUCLEOTIDE CONSTRUCTS BASED ON β -ARABINOFURANOSE AND ITS ANALOGUES
ART UNIT: 1635
EXAMINER: Janet L. Epps-Ford
AGENT/ATTORNEY: Joan M. Van Zant

RESPONSE TO OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Mail stop Non-Fee amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Communication dated March 8, 2004 in connection with the above-identified application, Applicant is enclosing herewith an amended response, previously filed on December 22, 2003, in accordance with the Examiner's comments.

In light of the Examiner's comment that the 12-22-03 response appears to be *bona fide*, Applicant trusts that the enclosed amendments to the response meet with approval.

Serial No.: 09/719,870

-2-

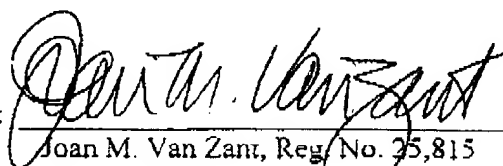
Parent

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 8, 2004

By:


Joan M. Van Zant, Reg. No. 25,815
Agent of Record
(416) 216-1868

OGILVY RENAULT
Customer Number 020988
1981 McGill College, Suite 1600
Montréal (Québec) Canada, H3A 2Y3

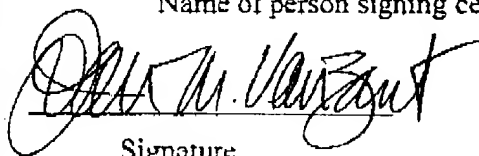
Enclosures

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the
Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Joan M. Van Zant

Name of person signing certification



Signature

April 8, 2004

Date

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ART UNIT: 1635
EXAMINER: Janet L. Epps-Ford
AGENT/ATTORNEY: Joan M. Van Zant

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail stop Non-Fee amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 25, 2003 in connection with the above-identified Application, please consider the following:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

REMARKS

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.